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LETTER

TO A

MEMBER

OF

PARLIAMENT

Relating to the

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Irish Forfeitures.

LONDON

Printed in the Year 1701.

LETTER

MEMBER

PARLIAMENT

Relating to the

Joint Committee

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Printed in the Year 1791

A
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TO A
Member of Parliament, relating to the
Irish Forfeitures.

SIR,
IN Obedience to your Commands I have perused the Reports, as also the other Pamphlets relating to the *Irish Forfeitures*. I observe tho' the Pamphlets differ both in their Stile and Design, yet they agree in their Valuations, so that it is reasonable to conclude that the Value of the Forfeitures, including the Private Estate, does not exceed 500000*l* unless those Gentlemen who are lately come from *Ireland* for that purpose, give us further light into that Affair, by delivering into Both Houses a Valuation of the several Estates in the manner following;

The Mannor of *Dale*, situate in the County of *Cathelagh*, formerly the Propriety of *Dudley Bagnell*, Reported last Year to be worth above 5000*l*. per *Annum*, and Forfeited in Fee, discovered this Year to be worth 1400*l*. per *Ann*. and Forfeited only for the Life of Mr. *Bagnell*, who is near 70 Years Old, improveable 500*l*. per *Ann*. at the Expiration of Leases which will determine in the Year 1720, this Estate valued in last Year's Books at above 70000*l*. In this not 7000*l*. a distinct Rent-Roll, in this method is the only effectual way to justify themselves, and silence all Pamphlets.

I know they will object to this, the distance of Places, the Rains, and 20 other things, importing an impossibility in them, with their utmost Application, to have perfected a Rent-Roll in this method in so short a time; but could they not have given you a distinct Rent-Roll

of the Province of *Leinster*, which lies all in the Neighbourhood of *Dublin*, and which they have long since surveyed? And from this one might have made a Judgment how the other Parts would have answered their former Valuation, tho' 'tis probable the proportion will not hold. I will put this matter upon a short issue: Let them in their next Representation to Both Houses only give a distinct Rent-Roll of two Counties, the remotest of them not 30 Miles from *Dublin*, and the other not Ten, viz: *Cathelagh*, value total of the Forfeitures in their first Report, 95872*l.* 2*s.* and *Wicklow* value 35348*l.* 19*s.* amounting in the whole to 131221 *l.* 1 *s.* now if the Forfeitures of these two Counties amount to the 10th part of this Sum, they may be in the right in all the rest.

It is plain, why these Gentlemen are so very cautious of discovering the real Value: For, first it will endanger their Reputations, and in the next place their Salaries, which 'tis probable they are most concerned for at this time. They know full well, that if they can carry on their Designs a Month or two longer, it will secure them for another Year, and probably to the end of the Management; whereas should they at this time represent Matters fairly, as they ought, 'tis reasonable to believe the House of Commons would enter upon other methods more to the advantage of the Publick, and less Oppressive to that Country.

'Tis now high time to lay that Spirit, which those excessive Valuations made by them last Year, raised; 'twas this set all Ranks of Men a Complaining; the Country Gentlemen thought, and not unjustly, that it was unreasonable they should be burthened with Taxes, and the Soldiers murmured for want of their Pay, while they believed so small a number of Men ran away with so vast a Sum as 2 or 3 Millions.

Nor could any thing but the belief of this, have occasioned those Resolves of the 18th of January 99, which flew like wild-fire thro' all the corners of the Kingdom, viz. *That the Advising, Procuring, and Passing the said Grants, &c. have been the occasion of contracting Great Debts upon the Nation, and laying heavy Taxes upon the People, and that the Advising, Procuring, and Passing the said Grants, is highly reflecting on the King's Honour.* Had the Report of the Commissioners been true, there had been more colour for those Resolutions.

But if the Matter of Fact, as represented, be notoriously false, then most certainly the Printing and Publishing that Report, was highly

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highly injurious to his Majesty's Reputation. Had they represented Matters fairly, could ever the House of Commons have come to the former *Resolves*? Could the saving of 200000^l have prevented the Kingdoms being burthened with heavy Taxes? Or could the Advancing or Passing away the aforesaid Sum among 276 Persons *vid. par. 34. of the first Report* be so highly reflecting on the King's Honour? When the Parliament of England thought 60000^l a fit Reward for a single Person, and a Foreigner too.

You will wonder, how I come to fix upon a Sum of 200000^l. That I may be the better understood, you must know I do not count the Private Estate a Forfeiture, but an Estate devolved on the Crown by the Abdication: Now setting this Estate aside, I am fully persuaded that all the Forfeitures which the King gave, either upon a Principle of Charity, or to reward Merit (upon a supposition he had given all away that remained after he had restored what he did to the Papists) does not amount to 200000^l.

But this is an injurious Supposition to his Majesty, for he did not give all away, and out of those Lands which were granted, there was an Additional Quit-Rent, of about 4000^l per Ann. Reserved to the Crown, and made part of the Revenue of Ireland.

It is reasonable to believe his Majesty was mistaken, in the grant he made of the Private Estate; for tho' he did not give entire credit to the Account given of that Estate, by the Commissioners, yet I will readily grant that it far exceeded his Majesty's Intentions, and the very Expectations of the Person to whom it was granted, who may very well be presumed to have been ignorant of the value of it.

The Report of the Commissioners last Year tells you, That the Value of the Forfeitures, including the Private Estate, amounts to 161000^l per Ann. That the Grantees, in plain English, abused the King, and their Agents imposed on them, *vid. par. 52.* Now if, upon a strict Enquiry, they fail in every point, and nothing remains certain, but that the Commissioners have abus'd the House of Commons, by representing Matters five times more than they were worth, these Gentlemen ought to have little Credit for the future.

Knowing how intirely you are in his Majesty's, and the present Interest of your Countrey, I leave you to judge what Crimes those Gentlemen are guilty of who took this handle, maliciously to misrepresent his Majesty to his people, in order to alienate their Affections from him. Men who were so well acquainted with the Af-

fairs of that Countrey, as some of those Commissioners were, cannot be presumed to have fallen into so great Mistakes by Accident, or Ignorance.

Tho it be our disappointment in the Main, yet every one must be pleased that the King's part in this Affair, seems to be set in a much better light. 'Tis now disputable, whether his Mercy to the *Irish* Papists, or his Bounty to his Friends, be greater, and both, if well considered, will not be found to exceed their just Bounds, if we will allow our Kings to remember mercy in the midst of Judgment, and consider that whoever will be well served, ought to Reward as well as Punish.

Did we consider how much we owe our Liberties to the Bounty, and Liberality of our Kings, and how the Power of this Kingdom has changed hands in consort with the Lands, we must allow that long since we had been in a higher degree of Slavery than any of our Neighbours, had not our Kings given their Lands away as fast as they gain'd them; and had his Present Majesty had the least design upon our Liberties, he had made use of those very Lands, and that Army of Foreigners, which helped to Conquer them to Enslave us.

But in this, as in all other Actions of his Life, he has shew'd himself a Protector of Liberty, and a Reliever of the Oppressed. By his Mercy to the Papists, he has given Demonstration that he is for gaining them by his Bounty, and not for making them desperate through Poverty or Fear; and by his Liberality, and his other numberless Condescensions, he has given us undeniable Proof that he has no designs but for our Good.

You tell me that the Trustees, who are now come to Town, still maintain that the Forfeitures, together with the Private Estate, and those other Additions made by the late Act, of very valuable Interests, which were not Forfeited by the Laws of either Kingdom, will pay about a Million of Debt. But was their Enquiry last Year what they will pay? Or, what they were worth? What they will pay, depends upon the Credit of the Nation; and the lower our Credit is, the greater Debt those Lands will pay.

If they mean such Payments as Bankrupts make, they may very well pay a Million of Debt, and yet not be worth half a Million; but surely the Advising such a Payment as this, would be highly injurious both to his Majesty's, and the Nation's Honour. You have already pay'd the Foreigners who were in your Service, and would you

you not pay your own Country-men? You make it a Case of Conscience to reduce the Interest of the publick Debts to Five or Six per Cent. and will you make Conscience first to allow the Soldiers no Interest for the time past, and in the next place put a necessity upon him to take half of his Principal?

Has not your Army supported the Reputation of their Country in the Field, and gained a new Reputation of suffering the last Extremities for want of their Pay, in a cause wherein they thought the Religion, Safety and Honour of their Country concerned? Did they ever refuse to march for want of their Pay, as other Nations did? Or did they so much as murmur, till they were perswaded by the Report of the Commissioners, that his Majesty might have paid near three Millions of the publick Debts, had he not misapplied those *Forfeitures*?

It was pleasant enough last Year, to see some Country-Gentlemen's Levees crowded with Redcoats, and to have them all go away tickled with the general Complement, *Gentlemen, you shall all be paid with Lands in Ireland.* He was a bold Man, in those days, who durst oppose the Bill of *Resumptions* in any publick place; but now those very Gentlemen begin to smell a Rat. You shall see them walking about scratching their Heads, perhaps in that very place where they received a Wound in *Ireland*, praying heartily for those who contrived this kind of Payment for them.

Sir, be not perswaded by these Gentlemen to pay your Army in this manner, at a time too when you may have further Occasion for them. Is it strange to see Men who so heartily, by their Pamphlets, contributed to the breaking of the Army, combine in the cheating of them? For shame reject all Proposals of this kind with scorn, and let not those Gentlemen, in any degree, wipe themselves clean, by Sullying You. Inform your selves of the real Value of these *Forfeitures*. When the Value *per Annum* appears, according to the several Interests the Publick has in them, it will be easie to know how much they are worth, and consequently what they will honestly pay. An Enquiry of this nature is a piece of Justice owing both to the King and People, the late house of Commons, and your selves.

If the Kingdom be so in Debt that some Persons must be losers, why should not those who have received Seven or Eight per Cent. for their Money, and some a *Premium*, come in for a Share of the Loss.

Loss? Have not the Soldiers lent their Pay, and lain long out of it without Interest; Would you consent to pay them now at the rate of Ten Shillings in the Pound, or under? Consider, that paying these Gentlemen will not impoverish the Nation; 'tis but changing the Money from one hand to another, and if we spare a little Lace from our Liveries to patch these Gentlemen's Coats, it will be well bestowed.

It is now no longer a Mystery why some of these poor Gentlemen sell their Debentures at 50 l. per Cent. discount, if they are to be paid with Lands in *Ireland* at 26 Years Purchase, as the *View of the Reports* most justly observes. If you settle a Reasonable Interest, and Vote to make good the Deficiencies of this Fund, the Debentures will still recover their Credit, and this will in no manner hinder the Sale of the Forfeitures for what they are *bona Fide* worth, but rather increase the number of Bidders: For, as Matters stand now, no Person can buy with ready Money; but if the Debentures were made to bear some proportion with ready Money, the Gentlemen of that Country would come in and bid heartily for parcels of Land which lie convenient for them.

Since you allow me the freedom to write to you, I hope you will pardon me, if I take the Liberty to tell you, that it will look very partial, after you have received Petitions relating to the *English* Grants, to persist in denying to receive the *Irish* Petitions; unless you suppose that you understand their Grievances better than your own. Such a procedure as last Years, is to be hoped will never be drawn into precedent. For no Man was ever yet satisfied with a Judgment against him, when he was denied the common favour of being Heard.

If a River be to be made Navigable, which all Men will allow to be a publick Good, yet do you ever refuse to hear a single Person, who pretends that he may receive a particular Prejudice by it? Was ever any Man's Petition refused to be received, unless he had set his Foot on *Irish Ground*? Was ever any of your Plantations treated after the same manner? If the Petitions were so very numerous, that you were frightened at the Prospect of them, it was a good reason against the Bill.

Cromwell, when he reduced *Ireland*, altered their Constitution so far that he allowed them no Parliament of their own, and Governed with a high Hand. Yet he found it reasonable, that so considerable
a Body

a Body of Men should be Represented ! and therefore allowed them to send a certain number of Members to the Parliament of *England*. Notwithstanding this, we never hear, during his Usurpation, that the Parliament of *England* deny'd to receive their Petitions. But to dispose of their Properties where they have no Representatives, and yet to deny them the Liberty of Petitioning, seems very hard, and puts that Country upon a worse foot of Liberty than any Country in *Christendom*, and 'tis much the same thing to him that carries the Chains what Hand puts them on.

'Tis not only the Law of the Land, but the Law of Nature, that all Subjects have a Right to Petition ; and this surely will be allowed me, that if ever Subjects have a Right to Petition the House of Commons, which is part of our Legislature, it is when they apprehend themselves affected by a Money Bill, the House of Commons claiming the whole Right of framing it ; which appeared very plain by the management of the Conferences last Session, the House of Lords were not allowed to make any Amendments, and the Necessities of the Publick did so much require the Money, that the King could hardly be said to have a Negative.

Had the Act last Year, been barely an Act to resume the Interests of the Forfeiting Persons, and had kept strictly to that of Vesting in the Trustees such Right only as the Forfeiting Person had at the time of the Treason, or after the denying to receive Petitions, had appeared more reasonable : But your Act does not stop here ; in some Cases it has a Retrospect ; it makes void Voluntary Settlements made several Years before the 13th of *February* 88. from which time we date the commencement of the War ; as if the Papists of *Ireland* had contrived his present Majesty's coming over with design only that they might have had an opportunity to oppose him, it vests remainders expectant upon Estates Tail in the Trustees, tho' the Persons in whom those Remainders were vested, had been in *Derry* the whole Siege ; nay, tho' they were such Remainders, as Tenant in Tail could not Barr. In some Cases your Act has divested Article-men of Estates, they were in actual Possession of at the time of making the Articles. Others are turn'd out of Possession of Estates they had actually recovered from the King by a Prior Title, and consequently your Act makes void all Marriage Settlements, and other Legal Acts done by such Recoveries, before the Passing of your Act. Bargains are made void where neither Party was Forfeiting ; as where a

Mortgage upon a Forfeited Estate is Assign'd over for less than is really owing, in this Case the Assignee of the Mortgage must content himself with the same Sum he paid for it. Now, pray, if the Forfeiting Person could by no Act of his affect this Mortgage, how comes the Publick to have a Title to the benefit of this Bargain, more than to all the other beneficial Bargains throughout the Kingdom? Why are not all beneficial Leases made upon such Estates made void, upon Repayment of the Fine? And why are not Remainders expectant upon Estates for Life vested in the Trustees, if we are only to consider how to increase the Fund, and leave Right and Wrong intirely out of the Case?

You have now before you a Bill to resume the *English Grants*, if it Pass with such severe Clauses, as are to be found in the *Irish Act*, it will, in some measure, justify the Procedure of last Year, and give us some reason to think that the present Necessities of the Publick required this Severity; but if you either let this Bill fall, or Pass it with proper Savings for such hard Cases as are so much complain'd of in *Ireland*: All Mankind must conclude you have dressed up a Dish for the *Irish*, which no other Stomach could digest.

I will only beg leave to take notice of one thing more, and that is the ill Treatment the Protestants of that Country meet with in *Both Reports*. Is there any Rank of Men who have not tasted the Venom of their Pen? In the 9th par. of their first Report they make it a Question, Whether his Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to the Judges, did give them any Legal Authority to Summon the People, &c. In the 10th par. of the same Report, in order to cast a Reflection upon the Nobility, they Excuse the Commonalty: They there observe a backwardness in the People of that Kingdom to give any Information, which in their humble Opinion does not proceed from any dislike of the business of their Commission, or Disobedience to the Authority that sent them, but for fear of the Grantees, and the Persons in Power, whose Displeasure in that Kingdom is not easily born. Now, what Reflection does this cast not only upon the Grantees, but upon the Government, and every Man in Power? No Reflection sure was ever more unjust than this, for had the Great Men given the least Countenance to the Commonalty, tho' the Air of that Country be counted temperate, yet it had proved too hot for them.

In the 20th par. having a particular regard to the Good of that Country, they tell you that the Fees of that Court, meaning the former

mer Court of Claims, was so *extravagant, &c.* when 'tis certain their Commission has brought five times a greater Expence upon that Kingdom. It were endless to insert the several Pressures that Country lies under, I will only instance one: You know the Trustess Post, what Causes they please to be heard, and one would imagine they would Post none but such as they were prepared for: notwithstanding when the Claimant appears at the day with his Witnesses, which he brought to Town at a very great Expence, sometimes upon a Motion from the Bench, at other times by Motion from their Counsel, but it is sufficient if any of their Under-Clerks whisper that they are not ready, the Cause is put off, and sometimes without Day, or at a very remote one. But the greatest Grievance of all is, that no Man is yet Master of his Decree, tho' they tell you in their last Report, that they have determined 800 Claims: Therefore what they say in the 21st par. may with great Justice be said here; *That this Court of Claims is almost universally Complained of, and we fear with too much reason. In general it seems to us that there have been great Miscarriages in this Court, and that in many Cases the Articles of Limerick and Gallway are infringed, contrary to the express Words of the Act.*

The Judges of the Ordinary Courts of Justice in that Kingdom are not only Accused of Arbitrary, and Illegal Proceedings, but in the 77th par. *The Right Honourable the Lord Chief Justice Hely, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common-Pleas, Purchaser of Lands within six Miles of Dublin, is said to be now cutting down the very Ornamental Groves about the Mansion House of Feltrim.* From their own Words it appears that this Estate lies within six Miles of Dublin, where they might easily have gone and been themselves witnesses of this Fact; but if it appears that this Fact is notoriously false, and if not one of the ornamental Trees be cut down, what credit can these Men have for the future? Or what Construction can be put upon such a Representation, but that some designing Gentleman hoped to Succeed him? This must be the Reason, since we know that in another case, they did not think fit to represent that another Gentleman who was no Judge, cut down Woods to the value of 3000^l. tho' Affidavit was made of it.

Another Instance of the insincerity of the Representations they have given us in the 87th par. of their first Report, relating to the Honourable Thomas Brodrick, who, they say, govern'd the Comrs, took
vast

vast quantities of Lands, and Let them afterwards to Under-Tenants at greater Rents; which (say they) is the more observable in him, who was then a privy Councillor, and Appointed by the Lord Capel to inspect the Cants, having been informed they were managed much to his Majesty's disadvantage.

The Account which Mr. Brodrick gave the Commissioners, upon Oath, and delivered to several Members of Parliament last Year, was this: The Lord Capell, when he was sole Governor, finding by the Accounts of the Commissioners of Forfeitures, that that Commission had brought the King in Debt, resolved to put the management of them into the hands of the Commissioners of the Revenue. The way of selling those Lands being by Auction, or Cant, and the Lord Capel being informed that measures were concerted by some people who had made advantages of those Lands, to beat down the value of them, and to bring a Reflection upon the Advice by which that Commission was broken, communicated the matter to Mr. Brodrick, and earnestly intreated him to be present at the Cants, in order to defeat the design, and keep up the Lands to the real value. Mr. Brodrick, after being present one day, being informed that he had disoblged many persons by his raising the Auction, resolved to engage no more in that undertaking, till the Lord Capell pressed him hard to it, telling him, that his Honour was at Stake, and that he should not be able, without his assistance, to defeat the design formed against him: The effect of Mr. Brodrick's Bidding was, that the Lands were generally raised to double the Rent they yielded before, and it seems very hard that they should represent him guilty of Breach of Trust, out of regard to his particular gain, when he declared upon his Oath, that this was the truth of that Affair, and that he was no gainer by the Lands he took. This Report will not be wondred at by any, who know what Envy some of those Commissioners bore his Family, by reason of the Interest they were thought to have in the Government. And it must be no small satisfaction to them to consider, that tho some of those Commissioners managed, as if one of their principal designs was to pick up matters of Accusation against them; yet have they not been able (notwithstanding the part they had in the management of Affairs, and the Forfeitures particularly) to shew that they were guilty of any indirect dealing, or made one farthing advantage of those forfeited Estates. A little time will shew whether the same may be said of other Managers.

But

But aspersing that Kingdom by parcels would not do their Business; for notwithstanding this the People of *England* might still have retained a good Opinion of the Body of the People; therefore in the 78th par. they take them in by Whole-sale, where they say, *And indeed it does appear to us, that the Freeholders of this Kingdom through length of time, and by Contracting new Friendship with the Irish, or by inter purchasing with one another, but chiefly through a general dislike of the indisposition of the Forfeitures, are scarcely willing to find any Persons Guilty of the late Rebellion, even upon full Evidence.*

Supposing this Fact to be true, it is worth while to inquire into the Causes, and Commencement of this Change. They tell you, that it proceeds chiefly through a general dislike of the Disposition of the Forfeitures.

Men, who can say this, can certainly say any thing. Have not the Gentry of that Kingdom bought under their Titles? Have not the Grantees let the Lands to Protestants? And did not they like their Titles so well, that they have improved to that degree that in the Second Report the Trustees tell you, *That upon the Account of their Improvements they deserved the utmost favour they could shew them?* If this be so, then this change must proceed from some other Cause.

From what time can we date these New Friendships? 'Tis certainly of no old date; in the 4th par. of their first Report they tell you, That the Subcommissioners acted vigorously, and made Returns of great quantities of Forfeitures. These Men were not Popishly affected. 'Tis not long since the Protestants of that Country made a Law against Intermarrying with Papists, and another to confirm all their Out-Lawries; another to Disarm and Dismount them. Now supposing after all, that the Commissioners of the Forfeitures, and the Trustees going into this Country occasioned this great change in the Minds of these People, I am afraid we shall be but little Gainers by them in the end.

If it be the Interests of the Papists to disunite us, and to make *England* jealous of the Affections of the Protestants of *Ireland*, and to give those People just reason to Complain of the Hardships they meet with from us, we may truly say, That the Authors of these Reports are Popishly affected, and are acting vigorously in their Interests.

It may be Objected, That the Second Report is not so very disobliging, I leave you to judge. They tell you *par. 19th*, That they have not yet thought fit to leave any thing to the Determination of the People of that Country, The meaning of which Words is no more nor less than this: *King, Lords and Commons, We the Trustees Appointed by Act of Parliament, &c. do Acquaint you, that it is our humble Opinion, that there is not an honest Jury to be found in the Kingdom of Ireland: Therefore in favour to us, who are the only Men fit to be trusted, Suspend all the Laws of that Country till the Expiration of our Commission.*

Men, who can utter such Doctrines as this against a whole Kingdom, and thereon graft a desire that more Power may be lodged in themselves, must have a good allay of Brass in their Composition. Were the Kingdom of *Ireland* generally depraved in their Manners, it were no discreet part to tell them so, for while one Man thinks the other honest, there is no great danger in them, tho' they be both Rogues. It is the Confidence that ill Men have in one another, which makes them capable of enterprising any thing dangerous. Now, however conscious particular Men were of their own Crimes in *Ireland*, yet I dare say, they had a better Opinion of their Neighbours, till the Trustees made the fatal discovery.

If there be anything to be inferred from what they say here, it ought to be well considered, whether it be the interest of *England* to prosecute an Affair so intirely disagreeable to all Ranks of Men in that Kingdom, and unites Protestant, and Papist, in acting contrary to what is thought the present Interest of *England*.

Sir, the many hardships the People of that Country labour under, both from the nature of the Act, and from the Executioners, are very fit Objects of your Consideration: Is it fit to give up a Kingdom to the Calumnies and Aspersions of a few Men, whose Names were scarce known the other Day? Would private Gentlemen take Affronts of this nature from one another? Or would they have out-lived those Calumnies in another Country? Has not your Act, tho' very disagreeable in it's nature, met with all the ready compliance imaginable? Consider whether you may not so over-load the Ass that it may grow resty?

Whoever would seriously reflect on the Behaviour and Conduct of the Protestants of *Ireland*, during the late War, would surely use

use them better. Consider how early they Embarked in the common Interest; How they Regimented themselves, and how long they served without Pay; How they maintained *Derry*, when it was designed to be given up by it's Governor, and when it was thought not tenable, by those who sent to it's relief? How they fought at *Inniskillin*, and how well their Militia Served; So that they are now become as good a Proof as any in a late Pamphlet, that a Militia may be useful. Consider their Numbers and Strength, and then Judge whether it is fit to give up so considerable a Body of Men (who may yet prove very useful to us) to the Malice and Designs of a few?

I am afraid I have exceeded the just bounds of a Letter, therefore I will conclude with this hearty Prayer: *That God in his infinite Mercy, would direct your Consultations to the Advancement of his Glory, the Good of his Church, the Honour of his Sacred Majesty, and Safety and Welfare of these Kingdoms.*

YOURS.

all their action. Consider how early they embarked in the room.
 How they Regimented the nation, and how long
 they lived without pay; How they maintained a war when
 no danger is given up by it. Consider, and when it was
 those that were, for those who first to it, still how they
 fought as lions, and how well their little selves; So that
 they are now known as good a Pilot as any in a late Campaign.
 Consider their numbers and strength.
 and in fact what it is like to live up to considerable a body
 of men (who are very much to us) to the Malice and
 Deceit of a few?

I am afraid I have exceeded the bounds of a letter. I am
 sure I could continue with ease. I am, Sir, your
 Obedient Servant, John C. [illegible] the Advancement of his City.
 in God and Christ, the [illegible] of the [illegible] and [illegible]



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